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5/11/04
S. 10

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Schofield

Application No.: 09/740,705

Filed: 12/19/2000

Title: System, Device and Method for Producing
Optical Data Streams In An Optical Communication
Network

Attorney Docket No.: 2204/A77 120-157

Nortel Ref: 13252BAUS01U

Group Art Unit: 2633

Examiner: Ngo

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MAY 05 2004

OFFICIALCommissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of December 5, 2003, please amend the claims to this application as shown on the attached sheets.

Remarks

Claims 1-9, 17 and 18 are currently pending herein. Reconsideration and re-examination is respectfully requested in view of the below amendments and remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-9, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inoue et al. (JP05313082) in view of Wang (4,220,395). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.